

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL HALIFAX

UNCLAS STATE 306776

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, CA

SUBJECT: INTERIM FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS WITH CANADA FOR 1978

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR OCEANS AND FISHERIES
AFFAIRS, NEGROPONTE, SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO CHAIRMEN
OF NORTH PACIFIC, PACIFIC, NEW ENGLAND AND MID-ATLANTIC
REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS REGARDING INTERIM
RECIPROCAL FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS WITH CANADA FOR 1978
AFTER CURRENT INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT EXPIRES AT THE END
OF 1977:

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Z. BEGIN TEXT. THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO INFORM YOU
OF OUR PLANS TO CONTINUE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR US/
CANADIAN RECIPROCAL FISHING DURING THE PERIOD AFTER OUR
CURRENT INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT LAPSES ON DECEMBER 31,
1977.

WHEN THE CURRENT ROUND OF LONG TERM FISHERY AND BOUNDARY

NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA BEGAN, WE HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT BEFORE THE END OF 1977, THUS OBTAINING THE NEED FOR ANOTHER INTERIM AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE LONG TERM DISCUSSIONS, IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT ANOTHER INTERIM AGREEMENT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SEE US THROUGH TO THE CONCLUSION OF OUR LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS.

WE WILL MEET WITH THE CANADIANS ON JANUARY 10, 1978 HERE IN WASHINGTON, AND THE CONCLUSION OF A SHORT TERM AGREEMENT FOR 1978 WILL BE OUR FIRST PRIORITY. BOTH SIDES ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF RENEWING THE 1977 AGREEMENT ESSENTIALLY AS IT STANDS. WHILE SEVERAL ISSUES STILL REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE A 1978 SHORT TERM AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED, WE ARE REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THESE CAN BE RESOLVED. IF, IN THE BEST CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ARE ABLE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT AT THE JANUARY 10 MEETING, THERE WILL NONETHELESS BE A PERIOD AFTER DECEMBER 31 DURING WHICH WE WILL HAVE NO AGREEMENT IN FORCE.

WE NOTE THAT THE PRINCIPAL CANADIAN FISHERIES WITHIN THE U.S. ZONE ARE NOT NORMALLY CONDUCTED DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE YEAR, ALTHOUGH THE CANADIANS MAY CONTINUE TO FISH IN THE AREA WHERE OUR CLAIMS OVERLAP. OTHERWISE, WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE ANY CANADIAN FISHING IN US WATERS, BUT IF ANY OCCURED, IT WOULD BE HANDLED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CANADIANS HAVE ASSURED US THAT DURING THIS HIATUS US FISHERMEN WILL BE PERMITTED TO FISH ACCORDING TO PAST PATTERNS IN CANADIAN WATERS. THEREFORE, ANY PLANS WHICH US FISHERMEN HAVE REGARDING FISHERIES IN EITHER THE BOUNDARY AREA OR IN THE CANADIAN FISHERY ZONE SHOULD NOT BE DISRUPTED. END TEXT. VANCE

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